

Boy Scouts of America

Troop 614  
Gainesville, FL



Family HandBook

# Troop 614 family handbook

<b>WELCOME SCOUT!</b> .....	3
<b>WELCOME PARENTS!</b> .....	3
<b>WHAT IS SCOUTING?</b> .....	3
<b>THE EIGHT METHODS OF SCOUTING</b> .....	3
<b>AIMS OF SCOUTING</b> .....	5
<b>QUALIFICATIONS TO JOIN TROOP 614</b> .....	5
<b>LEADERS AND SCOUTS</b> .....	5
<b>ORGANIZATION</b> .....	5
<b>MEETINGS</b> .....	6
<b>SUMMER CAMP</b> .....	7
<b>COSTS/FUNDRAISING</b> .....	7
<b>UNIFORM</b> .....	8
<b>CAMPING RULES</b> .....	8
<b>MEDICATIONS</b> .....	10
<b>DISCIPLINE</b> .....	12
<b>ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM</b> .....	12
<b>MERIT BADGES</b> .....	13
<b>SPL AND PATROL LEADER ELECTIONS</b> .....	14
<b>ATTENTION PARENTS</b> .....	14
<b>EXPECTATIONS OF THE SCOUT AND FAMILY</b> .....	15
<b>QUESTIONS</b> .....	16
Attachments: .....	16
Forms that need to be completed: .....	16

# Troop 614 family handbook

## ***WELCOME SCOUT!***

Welcome to Troop 614! You are joining a very active and supportive troop. All the leaders, Scouts and parents work together to maintain and support this group of Scouts. We hope you will be an active member of the troop, and find the friendships you make and activities you complete to be rewarding. Remember that the troop is only as good as the energy the Scouts, parents, and leaders wish to put into it. We have a lot to offer you and your parents and want you to become a vital component.

## ***WELCOME PARENTS!***

All the leaders, parents and Scouts would like to welcome you and your son to Troop 614. Scouting in Troop 614 provides your son with supervised experiences that help him develop new friends, enjoy nature, and respect our environment through backpacking, camping trips, canoeing, hiking and other fun activities. In addition, you will become a vital member of the community by sharing in projects that help enhance our community. This handbook is designed to provide you with information about Troop 614, the leaders, the various committees, meetings, camping trips, and other activities. We encourage parents to be active with their son in this troop and participate whenever possible. A successful troop must have many parents involved. Application forms are included if you have not previously completed one. Please fill in the "Troop Resource Survey" enclosed so we will know best how to use your talents.

## ***WHAT IS SCOUTING?***

Why do boys join Scouting each year? Because they want Scouting! Because the founders of the Scouting movement had the genius to give youth a picture of the ideal boy, a picture that appealed to the imaginations and captured the hearts of boys around the world. To a boy, Scouting is a game full of exciting things to do and see. A boy becomes a Scout for the sheer joy there is in it.

Scouting is a game to the Scoutmaster, too; but it is more than a game of fun. It is a game with a purpose, that of helping boys become outstanding men, and preparing them to be a good citizens.

## ***THE EIGHT METHODS OF SCOUTING***

The Methods of Scouting as developed by Lord Baden Powell now nearly one hundred years ago are just as valid and important in our program as they were back then. Let's take a closer look at them and try to relate them in today's terms within our specific troop responsibilities.

- **IDEALS:** The ideals of Scouting are spelled out very specifically in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Every Scout recites the Oath and Law at almost every Scout meeting he attends. He promises to do his best to live up to these ideals as a code of living and conduct.

## Troop 614 family handbook

- **PATROLS:** The Patrol Method provides an opportunity to interact with other Scouts. In addition, it is the cornerstone of Scouting's role in teaching participating citizenship. Scouts learn about representation, through their patrol leaders participation in Patrol Leaders Council meetings. It provides him an opportunity to have input in troop activities. In reality, this is the true democratic process in action.
- **OUTDOORS:** Many years ago, a long time Scouter said, "75% of Scouting is Outing". The Boy Scout program is designed for the **outdoors**. It provides opportunities to learn, live, and grow together. It's here that skills and activities learned in troop meetings are put to the test. The outdoors provides the adventure and excitement to Scouting.
- **ADVANCEMENT:** Scouting provides a series of achievable targets or goals for Scouts. A Scout can advance at his own speed and progress as he meets every challenge along the way. The advancement plan of Scouting provides an opportunity for recognition of achievement, which helps a boy grow in self-confidence.
- **ADULT ASSOCIATION:** Boys learn by example of their adult leaders. Boys tend to copy examples around them. Your role as a leader, counselor and friend is most important in a boy's Scouting experience.
- **UNIFORM:** Boys like to belong. The uniform is a symbol of belonging to a gang, in this case, a great gang called Scouting. The uniform creates an image and shows each Scout's commitment to the aims of Scouting. The uniform gives a Scout identity. It's practical and easy to wear and provides a boy a chance to show (through his badges) many of his accomplishments in Scouting.
- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** Proper application of the Boy Scout program and the Patrol Method fosters leadership development. The boy leaders of the troop run the troop. Understanding the responsibilities of leadership helps a boy accept his leadership role in the troop. As a Scoutmaster, you must watch to see that your Scouts have the opportunity to lead as well as to help and support their actions.
- **PERSONAL GROWTH:** An outcome we hope every boy achieves because he is a Scout. Each Scout grows and develops at his own pace. Good Turn projects, community projects, and the religious emblems program are just some of the ways Scouting provides well rounded opportunities for boys to grow. Learning and living by the Scout Oath and Law creates an environment for boys to learn to make good decisions and deal with the every day challenges they meet in today's world.

Without several other key program elements, it will be difficult to effectively achieve these goals. Adventure is one of these elements. Boys don't join Scouting to grow or develop good character. They join for fun and adventure, trying new things and being challenged through a quality Scouting program. Adventure is a canoe trip, a wilderness campout, or going to Philmont. Adventure is a program taking maximum advantage of the outdoors in program delivery.

Competition is also an ingredient. It should be a key ingredient in a troop meeting or activity. It can be an important part of developing camaraderie, self-confidence, and pride. Competition against other troops in camporees and other activities is also valuable.

# Troop 614 family handbook

## ***AIMS OF SCOUTING***

The Scout Oath and Law give the boy guidelines for living. Growth in moral strength and character is one of the aims of Scouting. We encourage a boy to look at his personal qualities, his values, his outlook, and his hopes for the future.

By developing his relationship to others, he learns about his obligation to other people, to the society he lives in, and to the government that presides in that society. This accomplishes our second aim of having a boy become a participating citizen.

Problem-solving, self-respect, and a fit body meet the final aim of Scouting, that of developing physical, mental, and emotional fitness.

All three aims of Boy Scouting are accomplished by utilizing the eight methods of Scouting, which work together to deliver a high quality program for boys.

## ***QUALIFICATIONS TO JOIN TROOP 614***

Boys interested in joining boy scouts must meet one of the following criteria:

- a) Completed 5th grade, or
- b) Age 11, or
- c) Earned Arrow of Light from Webelos

## ***LEADERS AND SCOUTS***

A Scoutmaster, several Assistant Scoutmasters and Committee Members currently direct Troop 614. All of these men and woman are strong role models who lead by example. These leaders expect the Scouts to run and maintain their meetings and participate in making decisions about troop activities and events. A roster of troop leaders, Scouts, and their patrols is attached for your reference. Should you have any questions, please contact one of the leaders.

## ***ORGANIZATION***

Our troop is chartered by the **North Central Florida YMCA**, 5201 NW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL. The responsibility for continuing functioning of the troop is in the hands of the troop committee, which is composed of the Troop Committee Chairperson, Secretary, Advancement Chairperson, Treasurer and other committee members. The Scoutmasters have the responsibility for the Scouts. The Scoutmasters are responsible for supervising and guiding the boy leaders of the troop. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is responsible for running the meetings. The patrol leader will be in charge of and responsible for the operation of his patrol. Adult Patrol Guides are assigned to each patrol and are available for advice and help. The adult leaders of Troop 614 have developed, over the years, the best all-around Scouting program in the North Florida Council. All efforts have been made to have weekly meetings, regular patrol meetings, weekend campouts, summer camps, and expeditions.

# Troop 614 family handbook



## ***MEETINGS***

There are five different types of meetings:

### 1. Scout Meetings

Scout Meetings are conducted on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Y on the average of three times per month except during holidays. A good rule of thumb is if there is no school, there probably will be no Scout Meeting. All Scouts attend in the field uniform AND bring their Scout Handbook. The troop is divided into patrols and one of the Scouts is elected by his patrol to be the Patrol Leader every 6 months. The Patrol Leader assists the other Scouts in conducting business and activity events. The adult Scout Leaders act to support and advise the Scouts during this time, teaching the Scouts to manage themselves. Each meeting has time for planning and recreation. Meetings are an essential part of Scouting and Scouts should plan to make them a regular part of their weekly activities. Normal expectations are that each scout must attend 75% of Troop meetings and 50% campouts and activities for advancement. If a conflict in schedule due to sports, sickness, travel, etc. arises, contact the Scoutmaster.

### 2. Patrol Leaders Councils (PLC) Meetings

PLC's occur regularly. The leaders and Patrol Leaders plan future events. Regular meetings are not usually held on the night of the Troop Leaders Council meetings. Please refer to the Scout Calendar of events that is attached.

### 3. Troop Committee Meetings

Troop Committee Meetings are conducted monthly. All parents are encouraged to attend. The committee discusses troop plans, finances, business activities, and does boards of review for advancement. Agendas and minutes are available upon request. Please contact one of the adult leaders for the next scheduled meeting.

### 4. Adult Leaders Roundtable Meetings

The Adult Leaders Roundtable Meetings are held frequently. Many of our Scout leaders generally go to the meeting, and all parents are invited. Information is distributed from district and council related to events common to all Scouts in the area (i.e., Camporee, popcorn sales,

# Troop 614 family handbook

special training events for adults, etc.). Contact the one of the adults listed on the attached roster for the next meeting.

## 5. Courts Of Honor

Courts of honor are held twice a year. Your attendance is a **MUST** if your son is to succeed in this troop. Courts of honor are to publicly recognize those Scouts who have earned awards and to encourage all Scouts to make progress on the path to Eagle Scout. We usually have food at these ceremonies; sometimes potluck other times just dessert. Your Scout will be told what to bring.



## ***SUMMER CAMP***

**Every** Scout, especially the younger Scouts, should attend summer camp. This is one of the highlights of the Scouting year. Information, including fees and dates, will be available in the spring of each year. Summer camp is for fun and knowledge. The Scouts work on advancement, have regular chores as assigned by their boy leaders, and participate in other fun events. This is an important step on the road to self-reliance and maturity. Personal experience has taught that those new to scouting who do not go to summer camp their first time are very likely to drop out of scouting. If you believe scouting is important to developing life skills then summer camp is a critical in that process.

## ***COSTS/FUNDRAISING***

The Boy Scout Program is aimed at each troop being responsible for raising all necessary funds. We are chartered by The North Central Florida Y and are an independent part of their programs. We currently require that each family pay their Scout's own way. A copy of our annual budget is available upon request. Current dues are \$85.00 a year, which includes Scout registration, Boy's Life and Insurance. We have fund-raisers for the general troop account. In the past we have also been fortunate enough financially to offer Troop Camperships on occasion to defray some of the costs of long-term camping, like summer camp and high adventure trips, to those scouts who have demonstrated significant leadership and participation in the troop. Speak to one of the scoutmasters for more information. Camping costs will be related to each individual camping trip. The cost of the food depends upon the menu planned by your Scout's patrol. Camping fees and transportation are assessed according to the campsite fees (if applicable) and the distance traveled. The costs are usually modest: usually about \$12.50 for a local camping weekend. Ideas for fundraising activities are always welcome.

# Troop 614 family handbook

## **UNIFORM**

Uniforms are to be worn at all Scout meeting and activities. Uniforms can be purchased at Scrubs by Design in Gainesville – 352-331-3555, the Scout Shop in Jacksonville - 904-384-9256, and E-bay has also uniforms generally at very reasonable prices - e-bay.com.

Troop 614 Scout uniform consists of:

Field Uniform (Class A):

- Scout shirt (including all required patches and current rank)
- Scout Neckerchief (for Scout rank)
- Troop Neckerchief (presented when the scout achieves Tenderfoot)
- Scout shorts or pants
- Scout socks
- Scout belt
- Scout or Troop hat
- North Florida Council Patch
- Red Epaulets
- Shoes or hiking boots (no sandals or flip-flops)
- Each Scout should purchase a Scout Handbook.

Activity Uniform (Class B):

- Same as above except any Scout T-shirt with any Scout emblem

For Courts of Honor and Boards of Reviews:

- Same as Field Uniform but with Scout Sash (for Merit Badges)

There is a troop uniform exchange box, more common called “the clothing closet”. This operates well if Scouts turn in outgrown uniforms. When a Scout has a uniform part he has outgrown he should put this part into the uniform exchange box. When looking for larger size uniform parts examine the exchange box. Please give \$5 for every uniform part taken. This helps defray troop costs.

***New Scouts should have a complete uniform within 60 days of joining Troop 614.***

Note: A Scout uniform should be properly worn at all times. A proper uniform means that the shirt should be tucked in. Items of clothing worn beneath the Scout uniform should not be visible. A Troop hat is part of your uniform and should be worn. No hat, other than a BSA hat, should ever be worn with the Scout uniform. Additionally Troop 614 wears a Scout Neckerchief as a part of the complete uniform. The Troop awards each scout a Troop Neckerchief upon achievement of Tenderfoot Rank or if already at this rank, when they become a fully paid member of the Troop.

## **CAMPING RULES**

## Troop 614 family handbook

Over a period of time, Troop 614 has adopted the following "Camping Rules" that apply to all of our camps, trips, and expeditions.

1. Radios, tape players, televisions, cell phones, CD players & Game Boys, etc. are not allowed while we are participating in a scouting event. On some long trips these rules are relaxed. If uncertain ask the SPL.
2. General rule is no eating or drinking in the vehicles.
3. Scouts are required to bring bagged meals for most trips to camping events.
4. Scouts must always leave on a trip wearing full field uniform unless other instructions are given. (See uniform requirements for uniform descriptions.)
5. To leave the vehicle when traveling scouts must be in the designated uniform and it must be worn properly.
6. Upon arrival at the destination, scouts should proceed directly to the back of the trailer, van, or bus to start a pack line. No one should pick up their personal gear until all gear is unloaded.
7. The adult area during camp is for adults and leadership only. Ask permission to enter this area.
8. A patrol's area is for that patrol only. Ask permission before entering another patrol's area and expect other patrol members to ask permission before entering your area.
9. When the Scout sign is raised, scouts should be quiet and give the person speaking their full attention.
10. A Scout may be restricted from participation in some troop activities if he is in debt to the troop or for disciplinary reasons. If you have questions please contact the Scoutmaster.
11. Trip No-Shows will be charged for their share of the trip expense, even though they did not participate. Scouts must be signed up to go on the trip the Monday before departure to be able to participate, and they must remove their name from the "Trip List" the Monday before departure to avoid No-Show payments. Any changes to the "Trip List" made after the Monday before departure, MUST be cleared with the Scoutmaster or Trip Leader PRIOR to departure.
12. All Scout's clothing and gear should be marked with his name.
13. No alcohol, tobacco products, electronics or fireworks are allowed at any Scout function.
14. "Any adult accompanying the Scouts on an activity outside the regular meetings must be appropriately trained. This training, at a minimum, must include BSA Youth Protection Guidelines (YPG) and Fast Start. Attending adults will act in a support role only, leaving Troop activities and operations to the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters unless requested. All adults must have a current medical form on file with the Troop per BSA guidelines for their own protection in case of accident or illness."

# Troop 614 family handbook

## ***MEDICATIONS***

Many of our scouts will, from time to time, take medication for one reason or another. Others are on medications on a more or less constant basis. This policy is to ensure all medications taken on troop camping trips are safely administered, and to ensure that scouts needing medications receive them.

Troop 614 scouts have had conditions that ranged from diabetes to chronic inflammatory problems, to depression and attention deficit disorder. Our adult leaders need to be aware of ANY significant medical problem your scout has, and any medication he receives for it. Even if your scout is not taking medication during an outing, side effects can occur from prior doses. We need this information to provide the safest possible experience for your son.

### Medication Administration Policies

All scouts are of course minors. Our policy is similar to that of your school. Here are the main points:

1. All medications for a scout are to be in the possession of the designated adult leader(s), NOT in the scout's possession, on all camp-out, day trips, meetings, or activities. The only exception to this rule is for asthma inhalers, which the scout can carry; BUT the adult leaders need to be aware of the fact that the scout has a condition that requires an inhaler, and is carrying an inhaler. The obvious corollary to this policy is that NO scout should be in possession of any prescription or over the counter medication without the knowledge of the Scoutmaster and/or his designated adult leader(s) responsible for medications. This information will be treated as confidential and shared on a "need-to know" basis with other adult leaders.
2. If your scout is taking any prescription medication, which must be sent with him on a trip or activity, the medication must be in a prescription bottle clearly labeled with his name, the name of the medication, the prescribing doctor, and the instructions for use. If you need a bottle to keep at home, you should ask your pharmacy to supply an empty duplicate bottle. Virtually all of them will do so at no charge.
3. The medication must be administered as ordered on the prescription label. Any hand-written instructions that vary from the label, or alteration of the label, is not acceptable. If your son's medication regimen or dose has changed, bring the most current bottle.
4. If the scout is taking any over-the-counter or non-prescription medication or vitamin, it must be sent in the original container. An envelope, baggie, hand labeled bottle, or *any other container than that which the substance was in at the time of purchase* is not acceptable.
5. Please remember to send enough medication to cover the entire period the scout will be with the Troop. This means day trips, weekends, summer camp, etc. It is a good idea to send at least one extra dose in the event the troop is delayed in returning for some reason.

# Troop 614 family handbook

## Rules for Medication Usage on Troop Activities

Many medications are dependent upon maintaining a certain "blood level" in the patient. These include many of the anti-depressants, seizure medications, antibiotics, and others. For the sake of your son's health, these medications must be continually given, even on camp-outs. We strongly recommend you do not alter your son's medication regimen for any reason without the knowledge and agreement of his doctor. We are willing to see that your son receives his medication for the time he is with the troop on events and activities, to assist him in maintaining optimum health.

A special case is the scout who is on medications such as Ritalin, Dexedrine, Adderall, Dextrostat, and others that are prescribed for the control of symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). This health problem is so common that we want to say a few words specifically about it and Troop 614's position on administering these medications for day-long, week-end, and summer activities.

1. ADHD is common. The child who has this disorder has specific symptoms and problems, which can vary widely in intensity from child to child, and even with the same child from age to age. ADHD should not be a cause for embarrassment on the part of the scout or his parents. It is a legitimate health problem and can greatly affect your son's ability to benefit from the Troop program. If your son has been diagnosed as having ADHD, we need to know that, whether he is currently on medication or not.

2. ADHD affects children in areas crucial to their progress in scouting. Just as they may be unable to focus in school at times, they may be unable to focus on learning scout skills needed to advance. It is crucial that parents and Troop leaders work together to provide your son with the best possible scouting experience. This requires frankness, trust, and open communication between leaders, parents, and the scout.

3. As a rule, if your son needs ADHD medications to focus and be successful in school, he will also require those medications to focus and be successful on camp-outs and during summer camp. This can be a difficult point for some parents and boys to understand. It is easier when you realize those learning scout skills and values are also an education. We are aware that many doctors allow "drug holidays" from ADHD medications on weekends and during the summer months when the child is not in school. Many other doctors believe this is a bad idea that causes even more problems. The medical community is not united on this approach.

If you prefer your son to be off of his medication during scout events, we are amenable to giving it a fair trial; however, some things must be understood in advance:

- a. The Scoutmaster and his delegated leaders must be aware of the diagnosis of ADHD, of the fact that the scout takes medication at school, and that the scout will not be taking medication during the camp-out or other activity;

- b. Neither the diagnosis nor the lack of medication is an excuse for failing to observe all elements of the troop discipline policy or maintaining behavior appropriate to a scout; i.e., adhering to the Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan.

## Troop 614 family handbook

c. A fair trial often includes assessing the scout's behavior on camping trips or other activities both on and off his medication. If you choose to have your son take no medication for 1-2 events and he is unable to focus and benefit from the experience, it is reasonable to then medicate him for 1-2 events to determine if the medication actually yields any benefit. If the scout clearly does better on medication than off, it is expected that he will remain on medication for all activities longer than 2-3 hours.

We have come to this position as a result of years of experience in dealing with scouts with ADHD. We believe the sole determinant should be the welfare of the scout. If he is able to get more from the program by utilizing medication support, then it should be employed. As noted, the most important element in facilitating your son's success is on going communication between parents, leaders, and the scout.

Should you have specific questions regarding medication issues, please speak with the Scoutmaster.

A word about adults...

Adults who are on medication are also a consideration. Adults may keep all personal medications with them, so long as the medication is secured. However, it is best if other adults on a trip are aware of one another's medical problems, including current medications. This is important information in the event of an accident, sudden illness, or allergic reaction. Please keep your co-leaders informed on each outing you attend.

### ***DISCIPLINE***

All discipline is the responsibility of the Scoutmaster or his designee. Conduct befitting a Boy Scout as stated by the Scout Law and Scout Oath is required for the maintenance of good order of the troop. Obnoxious acts such as smoking, speaking with profanity, consuming intoxicants, fighting, and failure to act in accordance with normal rules of conduct will not be tolerated. Appropriate immediate action will be taken by the supervising leader, i.e., Scout may be sent home, and if the offense warrants, the matter will be reviewed by the Troop Committee and Scoutmaster, which will determine appropriate additional action, up to and including the Scout being expelled. The parent of a Scout who is determined to be a discipline problem should be prepared to come and get their son from whatever activity the troop is participating.

### ***ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM***

A definite, well-rounded program is constantly in progress in Troop 614. An Advancement Chairperson keeps records on the Scouts' progress and consults with them frequently in order to help them overcome any problems that may arise. The Advancement Program shall be in agreement with national BSA policies and shall consist of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. Advancement requires Scouts to have complied with the 75/50 rule (have attended 75% of Troop meetings and 50% of campouts/activities.)

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a particular rank, the Scout will go for a Scoutmaster conference with the Scoutmaster or his designated assistant. If the Scout

## Troop 614 family handbook

successfully completes the Scoutmaster's conference, he is scheduled for a board of review, where the representatives of the committee satisfy themselves that his training has been up to the standards of the troop. Finally, the Scout is presented his award at the next meeting that it is available.

Rank advancement should be one of the primary goals of all Scouts. How fast a Scout advances is not nearly as important as a Scout's steady progress toward the goals he has set for himself during the last Scoutmaster's conference. Rank advancement includes the following steps:

1. When the Scout has completed all the requirements for the next rank, he should see the Scoutmaster to arrange a Scoutmaster conference.
2. A Board of Review is required for all rank advancements except Scout. The Scoutmaster will notify the Board of Review coordinator to make sure enough committee members are present at the meeting to do the Board of Review. Scouts should wear full uniform and have their Scout handbook with them.

### ***MERIT BADGES***

Merit badges can be earned by any rank. Merit badges are earned and awarded for accomplishment of specific requirements in various areas of interest. These are particularly useful in developing character in boys. If a particular merit badge interests the scout and he would like to earn it, he must first go to the Scoutmaster and get a "blue card". This will be his advancement record while earning the merit badge, so it is very important that he does not lose it.

The scout must get approval to work on the merit badge from the Scoutmaster prior to beginning any Merit Badge.

It is the scout's responsibility to seek out a counselor for his merit badge and make as many visits as necessary to learn the skills and pass the tests. Each patrol advisor will have a list of counselors.

When the counselor is satisfied that the scout has met all of the requirements, the counselor should sign the blue card and the scout should bring it to the Scoutmaster for final approval. Once approved, the blue card should be presented along with the Scout handbook to the Advancement Chairperson so it can be recorded.

If the Scoutmaster determines that the scout has not met the standards for a merit badge, he can withhold awarding it. It is our desire to maintain integrity within the troop in regard to merit badge accomplishments by the Boy Scouts. Therefore, parents who would like to instruct their son or act as a merit badge counselor to his or her own child should speak with the Scoutmaster beforehand. To avoid any question about the legitimacy of the scout earning the merit badge, if the parent and Scoutmaster have a brief conversation before the instruction begins we can ensure that mutual expectations for proper instruction of the merit badge have been set. Also, any parent aiding their Scout in meeting merit badge requirements that include field trips or group participation should offer all Scouts in the class the opportunity to participate.

# Troop 614 family handbook

## ***SPL AND PATROL LEADER ELECTIONS***

1. ASPL (Assistant Senior Patrol Leader) elections will be held annually, usually at summer camp.
2. ASPL's that have completed their 6-month term automatically become the SPL for the subsequent 6 months.
3. Patrol leader elections will be held twice a year, usually at summer camp and then 6 months later.
4. Elections may be held at any time the patrol or troop has a need to do so, however, the SPL and the Scoutmaster must approve of the election before it is held.
5. A patrol leader or SPL, may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

## ***ATTENTION PARENTS***

1. "On time" and "In uniform" for all troop meetings. Help your Scout to get into these good habits. He cannot be on time and in uniform without your help.

NOTE: IN ORDER TO SAVE MONEY AND PURCHASE QUALITY ITEMS, PLEASE BUY YOUR SON'S EQUIPMENT AFTER CONSULTATION WITH ONE OF THE KNOWLEDGEABLE ADULTS IN THE TROOP.

2. Please encourage your son to work on advancement in rank. Some gentle prodding with your Scout may make the difference of your son being an Eagle.
3. When things go wrong in his patrol or in the troop, immediately phone a patrol advisor or Scoutmaster with your observations and suggestions. Often neither the Scout nor the parents speak up and you can help our program greatly by doing so. Any delay may be detrimental to your son's fun in Scouting.
4. Scouts are NOT permitted to drive other Scouts in the vehicle on troop activities. This is a national Boy Scouts of America policy.
5. REGARDLESS of the weather or the time of year, Troop 614's outdoor activities take place as scheduled. They camp and hike in fair weather and inclement weather. All troop leaders have had courses in camping for boys and are capable of caring for them.
6. Scout equipment is sent home after campouts to be cleaned. It is to be returned the following Scout meeting, it is the Scouts' responsibility to see that it is returned. Parents can help make sure their Scout fulfills their duty to the troop.
7. Troop 614 would like to see every Scout participate in at least one adventure (summer camp or expedition) each summer, and every effort is made to make these adventures as affordable

# Troop 614 family handbook

as possible.

8. Please mark all of your Scout's clothing and gear with his name. Every effort is made to keep each Scout's equipment with the Scout but obviously, unless there is a name on it, it could belong to someone else.
9. If rules are repeatedly disobeyed, the Scoutmaster will suspend the Scout from the troop.
10. No alcohol or fireworks are permitted at any Scout function.
11. No smoking is permitted in the presence of the Scouts.

## ***EXPECTATIONS OF THE SCOUT AND FAMILY***

**PARTICIPATION!** We expect the Scout to participate in as many Scouting meetings and events as is possible. Some special events may even have troop meeting or campout attendance requirements for participation. We expect all parents to help occasionally by providing transportation, attending campouts, participating in fundraising activities, and coming to the parent meetings if possible. Of course, we expect families to encourage their Scouts to progress up the Scouting trail and to participate in all our activities including fundraising.

Parents who want to be involved beyond the usual activities that are expected for all Scout parents can volunteer their time to do whatever they like to do best. Initially, a parent might sign up as an adult leader and become active on the Troop Committee and perhaps handle one activity (e.g., fundraising or the newsletter) that is needed to run the troop. Parents who desire to be registered leaders pay their year's dues. All our leaders and adults that go on campouts are required to have Youth Protection Training and Fast Start Training. There are several other training programs for registered leaders.

Parents who desire to be even more involved are able to do so. You can be a Merit Badge Counselor and work with two or more Scouts helping them to meet the requirements for the Merit Badge. Registration is required, but no fees are required. If you are interested in becoming Merit Badge Counselor, please discuss this with the Troop Committee Chairperson.

Please take a few minutes to fill in the attached Troop Resource Survey Form.

Additional ways to help can be suggested by you to our Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman.

# Troop 614 family handbook

## *QUESTIONS*

If you have any questions, please ask any of the Scoutmasters or Committee Members. We look forward to having many good times with your family as part of the Troop 614 Scouting family.

### *Attachments:*

- Roster
- Activity Calendar

### *Forms that need to be completed:*

- Boy Scout application form
- Adult Application Form
- Troop Resource Survey
- Photo Release Form
- Vehicle Data

***PLEASE READ AND RETURN THE NEXT TWO PAGES TO THE  
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR***



# Troop 614 family handbook

## Troop Resource Survey

I understand that Scouting is a family affair and will actively participate with my son in Troop 614. I have read all the information in this packet and understand the requirements involved.

I would like to volunteer to serve in the following capacity:

---

---

---

---

---

I have read the entire Handbook and understand my rights and responsibilities.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Scout's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or guardian's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_





## Photo Release Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print in dark ink)

I hereby consent, without further consideration or compensation, to the use (full or in part) of all videotapes, photographs, voice or other recordings made of me or members of my family, and/or the use of written extraction in whole or in part from those visual or sound recordings, and/or the likeness in any medium, by Troop \_\_\_\_, Boy Scouts of America, for the purposes of illustration, broadcast, internet web production or any other distribution in any manner. Further, I release Troop \_\_\_\_, its registered adult volunteers; the Boy Scouts of America and its members from any liability which may arise from the use of those materials.

This Release will remain in full force and effect until withdrawn in writing by me.

Parent or Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_